

of the houses, from whence they witnessed the battle. In the morning the ladies of that city were flushed with the hope of our defeat. This hope was converted to general gloom towards two in the afternoon. They discerned the retreat of the Austrian army as plainly as it could be seen on the field of battle. . . .

The Emperor was going over the field of battle the same evening when intelligence was brought him of the death of General Lasalle, who had just been killed by one of the last musket-shots fired before the final retreat of the enemy. That General had had in the morning a strange presentiment of the fate that awaited him. The acquisition of glory had been an object of much greater solicitude to him than the advancement of his fortune ; but on the night previous to the battle he seems to have had the fate of his children strongly impressed upon his mind, and he awoke to draw up a petition to the Emperor in their behalf, which he placed in his sabre tasche. When the Emperor passed in the morning in front of his division General Lasalle did not address him, but he stopped M. Maret, who was a few paces behind, and told him that, never having asked any favor of the Emperor, he begged he would take charge of the petition which he then handed to him in case any misfortune should befall him : a few hours afterwards he was no more. . . .

As Napoleon was going over the field of battle he stopped on the ground which had been occupied by Macdonald's two divisions ; it exhibited the picture of a loss fully commensurate with the valor they had displayed. The Emperor recognized amongst the slain a colonel who had given him some cause for displeasure. That officer, who had made the campaign -of Egypt, had misbehaved after the departure of General Bonaparte, and proved ungrateful towards his benefactor, in hopes, no doubt, of insinuating himself into the good graces of the general who had succeeded him. On the return of the army of Egypt to France the Emperor, who had shown him many marks of kindness during the war in Italy, gave no signs of resentment, but granted him none of those favors which he heaped upon all those who had been in Egypt. The Emperor now said, on seeing him stretched upon the field of battle, " I regret not having been able to speak to him before the battle, in order to tell him that I had long since forgotten everything."

A few steps farther on he discovered a young quartermaster of the regiment of carabineers still alive, although a shot had gone through his head ; but the heat and dust had almost immediately congealed the blood, so that the brain could not be affected by the air. The Emperor dismounted, felt his pulse, and, with his handkerchief, endeavored to clear the nostrils, which were filled with earth. He then applied a little brandy to his lips ; whereupon the wounded man opened his eyes, though **he** appeared at first to be quite insensible to the act of humanity exercised towards him ; but having again opened them, and fixed them on the Emperor, whom he now recognized, they immediately filled with tears, and he would have sobbed had not his strength forsaken him. The